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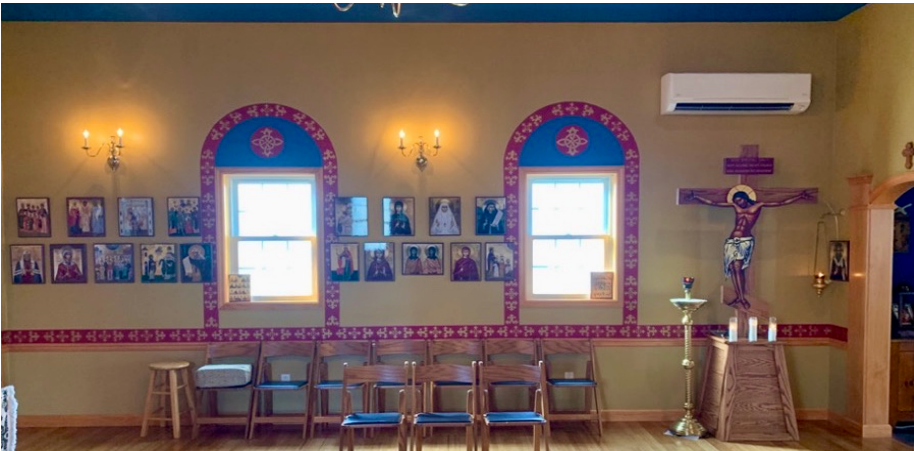
August 2021
holytrinity-oca.org



THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Beautifications Continue at the Chapel



Since completing their expansion project, the Chapel of the Holy Spirit repainted the interior of their church and has recently painted decorative borders around their windows. If you haven't seen it in person yet, feel free to stop by!

Why Do We Celebrate Vespers and Vigil?

It's probably fairly obvious to all that there are many different types of services in the Orthodox Church. First and foremost, there is the Divine Liturgy, where Christians come to hear the proclamation of the Gospel and to reaffirm that Gospel by actively renewing their union to Christ in Holy Communion. And of course there are all sorts of "occasional" services whose points are very easy to apprehend. There is Baptism, where a person is initially joined to Christ. There is Marriage, wherein a man and woman are united specifically to one another in Christ and become a new icon of Christ and His beloved Church. There is the Funeral, in which we say goodbye to a brother or sister and pray that God would receive them into His heavenly kingdom. And there are many, many, many other occasions for corporate prayer whose aims are fairly easy to apprehend (e.g. the prayers at the naming of a

child, prayers for the sick, the consecration of a church building, etc.).

But the purpose of the services that comprise what is called the "daily cycle" of Orthodox worship is perhaps a little less obvious. This daily cycle consists of vespers (evening prayers, the first service of the liturgical day), compline (prayers before bed), the "midnight office," matins (morning prayers, set around the time of sunrise), and the small services called "hours." Unlike other services, including the Divine Liturgy, these daily services are assigned for every day of the year and give us a pattern with which we can "bless the Lord at all times" together in the Church (Ps 34:1).

(continued, see FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK, next page)

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
119 S. Sparks Street
State College, PA 16801

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Schedules

TELLERS		SERVERS
August 1	K. Cattell, M. Fedkin	
August 8	G. Cattell, M. Fiori	
August 15	K. Cattell, M. Fedkin	
August 22	G. Cattell, M. Fiori	
August 29	K. Cattell, M. Fedkin	
September 5	G. Cattell, M. Fiori	All Servers welcome each Sunday. <i>Altar Server</i> <i>Co-Captains:</i> <i>J. Cadman and</i> <i>S. Oleynik</i>

■ FROM THE RECTOR’S DESK

Vespers and Vigil

The daily services are celebrated every day in monastic contexts and in large and active parish churches. For most parish churches, the daily cycle is used selectively and is primarily undertaken as spiritual preparation for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. The most common patterns of use that currently prevail in the United States are (1) vespers on Saturday night followed by the 3rd and 6th hours on Sunday morning immediately before the beginning of the liturgy, (2) slightly abbreviated matins on Sunday morning immediately before the liturgy, (3) “vigil” (a festive combination of vespers and matins, often followed by the 1st hour) on the eve of the liturgy with the 3rd and 6th hours being read immediately before the beginning of the liturgy, and (4) vespers on the eve of the liturgy and matins immediately before it. At present, at Holy Trinity we are using the vespers/hours pattern for Sunday liturgies and for most weekday liturgies and the vigil/hours pattern for most of the highest ranking feast days of the year, regardless of what day of the week they fall on.

Although the “daily cycle” consists of nine individual services, it is rather clear that vespers and matins seem to be prioritized in parish life as preparation for the Divine Liturgy. We should ask ourselves, “Why is this the case?” The answer is because vespers and matins are the *teaching services* of the daily cycle. Vespers and matins are highly variable services and they have a knowingly educative function. They present and reflect theologically on the themes of the day, and they are full of powerful meditations on God, His saints, His actions in history, and His plan of salvation. They also have a profound *exegetical* function, as they frequently teach us how to read and interpret the words of the divine Scriptures. For this reason, we should come to vespers and to vigil not merely to pray, but also to learn, standing in awe of the mysteries of God which have been revealed to us in the Church. Truly, the hymns and prayers of vespers and matins are among the best places to which one can go to learn Orthodox theology. For this

reason, I highly encourage all of the faithful to attend vespers and vigil as often as is possible.

Here is a “prelude” of some upcoming gems from these services:

- Going up with the disciples into the mountain, Thou hast shone forth with the glory of the Father. Moses and Elijah stood at Thy side, for the Law and the prophets minister to Thee as God. And the Father, acknowledging Thy natural Sonship called Thee Son. We praise Him in song together with Thee and the Spirit. – *Sessional Hymn after the Magnification, Transfiguration*
- The dance of the devil’s disciple was rewarded with thy head, O Forerunner. Oh, banquet of blood! Would that thou hadst never sworn, deceitful Herod! Better that thou lie than shed righteous blood! But let us bless the Baptist as is his due, and honor him as the greatest born of women! – *2nd Sticheron at “Lord I Call,” Beheading of St. John the Baptist*
- Today is the beginning of joy for all the world; today the winds blow that bring tidings of salvation. The barrenness of our nature has been loosed: for the barren woman is revealed as the mother of her who, after bearing the Maker, still remained Virgin. From her He who is God by nature takes what is alien to Him and makes it His own; through her Christ works salvation for those gone astray in the flesh, He who loves mankind and is the Deliverer of our souls. – *7th Sticheron at “Lord I Call,” Nativity of the Theotokos*
- O thrice-blessed Tree, on which Christ the King and Lord was stretched! Through thee the beguiler fell, who tempted mankind with the tree. He was caught in the trap set by God, who was crucified upon thee in the flesh, granting peace to our souls. – *Irmos of the 5th Ode, Exaltation of the Cross* ■

— *Fr. Ignatius*

■ NEWS & NOTES

Home Blessings Available at Any Time

While Father has blessed the homes of most parishoners at this point, we would like to remind you that home blessings are available at any time, and are especially important when you move into a new place – including homes, apartments, and dorm rooms. If you would like to schedule a blessing, please contact Father.

Axios! Axios! Axios!

A son and long-time servant of our parish, Protodeacon Alexander Cadman, will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Saturday, September 4th at 10am at St. John the Baptist church in Canonsburg, PA. The parish is looking into various transportation options, including potentially renting a bus for the trip. If you would be interested in carpooling or taking a bus, please contact Fr. Ignatius to express interest or sign up in the back of the church. Additionally, the Holiday Inn Express in Canonsburg has a special rate for a block of rooms; if you hope to spend the night, call them at 724-743-4300 and request the “Cadman Ordination Rate.” Again, Axios!

Greeters Ministry Re-established

After our meeting on July 15th, the Greeter’s Ministry has been officially re-established at Holy Trinity. We’re still working out the details, but more information is coming soon. If you would like to be involved in this ministry, please contact Fr. Ignatius.

New Ride Coordinator

Matushka Kelly Oleynik has volunteered to be the new parish rides coordinator. If you are either in need of a ride to and from service, or if you are able to provide a ride for someone in need, please contact her. Especially with the college students returning to town soon, please consider helping with this especially important ministry.

■ NEWS & NOTES

Congratulations to Deacon Mark!

On behalf of Holy Trinity, we would like to express our congratulations to Deacon Mark Oleynik on his upcoming elevation to Protodeacon. The award will be given on by Vladyka Melchisedek during the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 26th at Holy Trinity. Congratulations!

Fr. Ignatius on Vacation

Fr. Ignatius and his family will be on vacation from August 19th-26th. Please contact Fr. David Smith at (570) 600-2246 with any pastoral emergencies during this time. Thank you.

Church School Parents Meeting

On Sunday August 8th following the Divine Liturgy there will be a meeting with the parents of our school children. We will be discussing the upcoming year and some changes to our traditional instructional delivery method. All parents are asked to attend as your participation and support is needed. (The Church School is for students entering kindergarten in the FALL of 2022 and older.)

Strawberry Fields Back-to-School Drive

As the school year starts up again, many students are in need of basic classroom supplies. As we have done in the past, Holy Trinity will be assisting Strawberry Fields with their Back-To-School drive. Please stay tuned for more information.

Bookstore Outreach Expanding

The bookstore is growing! It will be expanding, both in size and in hours, and will include a lounge area for reading, snacks, and coffee. Contact Anna if you are interested in helping out. Stay tuned for details.

On the Dormition

“When you lived in the world of corruptible things, I revealed my power to you in visions; now that you are passing from that life, I will show myself to you face to face. Give the earth what belongs to it, without anxiety. Your body belongs to me, and since the ends of the earth are in my hand, no one can take anything from me. Entrust your body to me, just as I placed my divinity trustingly in your womb. Your soul, full of divine power, will see the glory of my Father. Your immaculate body will see the glory of his only Son. Your pure spirit will see the glory of the all- holy Spirit.

“Death shall make no boast at your expense, for you have given birth to life. You are my vessel; the mortal cracks caused by the fall shall not break you apart. The overshadowing gloom shall not rob you of sight. Come eagerly to the one whom you brought into the world. I want to make you happy, as a son should do—to pay you the pension due a mother’s womb, to recompense you for feeding me milk, to reward you for your nurture, to give your maternal love its full return. You begot me, Mother, as your only Son; now make the choice to come and live with me, for I know your heart is not divided by love for another child. I revealed you as my virgin mother; now I will make you a mother who rejoices in her Son. I will show the world now to be your debtor, and when you come to me I will glorify your name still more. I shall build you into the wall of the universe, into a bridge for those who are awash in the waves, an ark of salvation, a staff for the disabled, an advocate for sinners, a ladder to heaven strong enough to bear the weight of all humanity as it climbs.

“Come, then, with joy! Open up Paradise, which your ancestor Eve, your natural sister, had locked. Enter into the joy of your Son. Let go of the Jerusalem that is below, and hasten up to the heavenly city; for the Jerusalem below, ‘lamentation will soon be multiplied,’ as Scripture has it, ‘like the lamentation for the pomegranate grove cut down in the plain’ (Zach 12:11 [LXX]). Lie down to rest, if only in appearance, in

Gethsemane, the place of your tomb. I will not leave you alone there for long. I will come to you very quickly, when you have been buried in the sepulcher—not to dwell in you again by being conceived, as I once was, but rather to take you now to dwell with me. Rest your body confidently in Gethsemane, as once I rested my knees there in human prayer, before my passion. I gave you an image of your own death, bending on that very ground the knees I took from your body. As I came forth willingly, then, after that prostration, to a death on the cross that was the source of life, you, too, will pass immediately into life when your remains have been laid in the earth.

“Behold, my disciples are coming to receive you; they, my spiritual sons who are filled with my light, will bury you in all reverence and piety. I have bestowed on them the grace of adoption as sons, as you yourself can testify (see Jn 19:26f). So when you are laid by them in the tomb, consider that it is my hands which are caring for you; for it is not fitting that you should be laid to rest by anyone else but my apostles, in whom the Holy Spirit makes his home and who represent my own person. Only they can do honor to your passing, O all- immaculate one!” ■

Upcoming Liturgies:

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION

VIGIL: Wed., Aug. 5, 6pm
(A. Stickles, Lilya)
(P. Doty, Icon)

LITURGY: Thurs., Aug. 6, 8am
(S. Hunter, Prospora)

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

VIGIL: Sat., Aug. 14, 6pm
(A. Stickles, Lilya)
(K. Fedkin, Icon)

LITURGY: Sun., Aug. 15, 10am

The Daily Cycle of Services	Imagined Time of Day	Some Examples of Occasional Services
1) Vespers	Dusk (before dinner)	Baptism
2) Compline	Before Bedtime	Wedding
3) Midnight Office	Midnight	Funeral
4) Matins	Dawn	Panikhida (Memorial Service)
5) 1 st Hour	7:00 am	Akathists
6) 3 rd Hour	9:00 am	Unction
7) 6 th Hour	12:00 noon	Rite of Communion of the Sick
8) Typika		Blessing of the Graves
9) 9 th Hour	3:00 pm	Lesser Blessing of Waters

■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

On the Dormition of the Theotokos

By St. Germanus of Constantinople

Saint Germanus of Constantinople was patriarch of that city between the years 715-730. He was known for his defense of icons and love of the Theotokos. This is an excerpt from a homily he preached on the Dormition of the Theotokos.

“It is time, my Mother,” says the Lord, “to take you to myself. Just as you have filled the earth and all who dwell in it with joy, O you who enjoy such grace, come, and make the heavens joyful once again. Make my Father’s dwelling-place radiant; be a spiritual guide for the souls of the saints. For when they see your glorious passage here to my side, escorted by angels, they will be convinced in their faith that their own place, too, through you, will be to dwell here in my light. Come, then, in exultation; rejoice now, as you rejoiced at the angel’s greeting. In every way you now have the dignity of your title, ‘full of grace.’ As when you were about to conceive me you were invited to rejoice, so rejoice again in my desire to take you to myself. Do not be disturbed at leaving behind the corruptible world, with all its desires. Forget about its power of corruption. For you will not leave those who live in the world bereft of your protection; but just as I, who am
























not of the world, watch over those who live in it and take care of them, so your patronage will not be taken away from those who live in the world, until its consummation.

“The extravagant demands of the flesh will no longer disturb you. You are ascending to a fuller life, to joyful rest, to unconquerable peace, to an existence untroubled by cares, to delights free of passion, to permanent freedom from distraction, to unending enjoyment, to a light that never fades, to a day without evening—to me, the creator of all that is, including you. Where I am, there is eternal life, incomparable joy, a dwelling-place without parallel, an indestructible city. Where I am, then, you will be also: a mother inseparably one with her undivided Son. Where God is, there is all goodness of heart, all delight, all brilliance. No one who knows my glory wants to abandon it. No one who comes to my rest seeks again the things of the corruptible world. Ask Peter if there was any comparison or likeness between the world and Mount Tabor, when he gazed for a short time on my glory.

(continued, see ON THE DORMITION, next page)

Holy Trinity Calendar

All events take place at 119 South Sparks Street in State College, unless where noted.
Events listed at **Trinity House** take place at 123 South Sparks Street, in State College.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 1 Procession of the Life-giving Cross Divine Liturgy, 10am LIVE <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	 2	 3	 4 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions following	 5 Vigil of Transfiguration, 6pm	 6 Holy Transfiguration of our Lord , Divine Liturgy, 8am Blessing of grapes and fruit, following	 7 Choir Rehearsal 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm LIVE Confessions, following
 8 Divine Liturgy, 10am LIVE <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Church School Planning Meeting, 12pm	 9	 10	 11 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions following	 12	 13	 14 Vigil of Dormition, 6pm LIVE
15 Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos Divine Liturgy, 10am LIVE <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Blessing of flowers and herbs, following	16	17	 18 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions following	19	 20 Men's fellowship breakfast, 9am Choir Rehearsal 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm LIVE Confessions, following	21
22 Divine Liturgy, 10am LIVE <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	23	24	 25 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions following	26	 27	28 Great Vespers with Litya, 6pm LIVE Confessions, following
 29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist Divine Liturgy, 10am LIVE <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	30	31	 1 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Moliben for the New Church Year, 6pm Confessions following	2	 3	4 Ordination of PDn. Alexander Cadman to the Holy Priesthood Great Vespers, 6pm LIVE Confessions, following
5 Divine Liturgy, 10am LIVE <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	6	7	 8 Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos , Divine Liturgy, 8am Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions following	9	 10	11 Choir Rehearsal 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm LIVE Confessions, following

Chapel Calendar

All events take place at 145 North Kern Street in Beavertown, unless where noted.

Saturday, July 31 Great Vespers with Cross Procession; Confessions following, 6pm	Tuesday 17 Choir rehearsal, 6pm
Sunday, August 1 Divine Liturgy; Hours 9:40 a.m.; Lesser Sanctification of the Waters afterwards; fellowship immediately thereafter; catechesis at 1:30 p.m.	Saturday 21 Great Vespers; Confessions following, 6pm
Tuesday 3 Choir rehearsal, 6pm	Sunday 22 Divine Liturgy 10am; Hours 9:40 a.m.; fellowship immediately thereafter, catechesis at 1:30pm
Thursday 5 Vespers Divine Liturgy for the Transfiguration, 6pm	Tuesday 24 Choir rehearsal, 6pm
Saturday 7 Great Vespers; Confessions following, 6pm	Saturday 28 Great Vespers; Confessions following, 6pm
Sunday 8 Divine Liturgy 10am; Hours 9:40 a.m.; fellowship immediately thereafter, catechesis at 1:30pm	Sunday 29 Divine Liturgy; Hours 9:40 a.m.; fellowship immediately following; catechesis at 1:30 p.m. (Note: strict fast)
Tuesday 10 Choir rehearsal, 6pm	Tuesday 31 Choir rehearsal, 6pm
Saturday 14 Great Vespers with Litya, 6pm	
Sunday 15 Dormition Divine Liturgy; 10am Hours 9:40 a.m.; Blessing of Flowers/Herbage following; fellowship following; catechesis at 1:30 p.m. <i>(Please bring flowers/herbs for blessing)</i>	

ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR BEGINS 9/1

Please consult either the CHS website or FB page for schedule changes and/or other information

August 2021

† to join remotely, visit holytrinity-oca.org/zoom.

LIVE this service will be livestreamed on YouTube (visit holytrinity-oca.org/YouTube).